Leicester, Wednesday Novr. 19. 1834.

My dear Sir,

I have regretted, more and more, since we parted, that we had no farther opportunities of seeing & conversing. And I cannot but feel it more deeply, ~~at~~ in the prospect that a long winter is ~~at~~ ~~from~~ to intervene before we shall, probably, meet again. I do hope that you will often find little *odds & ends* of time that you can work up, in part, in letters to me. The Emancipation question becomes a more interesting one to me every day. You know I am sincerely an Anti-Slavery man; - this, I know, is saying but little; for no man, of commonly-decent principles, much less one who undertakes to expound Christian truths, can be an advocate of Slavery, unless bereft of his reason. - ~~For~~ I have, too, rejoiced in witnessing the efforts of the Anti-Slavery Societies and of Abolitionists. - I have fully made up my mind, too, upon the necessity and duty of immediately commencing the work of Emancipation. - But, upon the point of the immediate, general, total Emancipation of all our Slaves, I have not been able to bring my mind to a definite decision. Perhaps you can send me some little tracts or publications which throw light on the subject - more light than any of those I have yet seen. Perhaps I ought

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not to require any other knowledge than simply the knowledge of the criminality - the sin - of slave-holding. And yet I cannot quite think it a kind & humane act, after we have *disabled* so many human beings from taking care of themselves, to place them in a situation where they will be thrown upon their own resources, and their former masters no longer *compelled* to take care of them. The Pamphlet which you last sent me, (and for which I am very much obliged to you) published under the direction of the Providence Society did something to strengthen me in the necessity of ~~the~~ immediate & total emancipation. It is certainly true, as the Pamphlet has it, that the slaves can receive little or no benefit while they are slaves; that the most benevolent schemes for their improvement, & the advancement of their happiness, may always be frustrated & nullified so long as they are subject to human masters. This is good & true - it *may* be so; but it is not certain that it always *will* or that ~~it~~ such *is* the case now. Have we not reason to think that very many slaveholders (and that, the *best* of them) would very gladly join in a project of gradual - even rapid - emancipation, ~~when~~ while they would unyieldingly oppose ~~general~~ immediate and total emancipation? - that, on the first ground, they would be our friends, & most invaluable co-workers in this holy cause, -

while, on the last ground, they are and will be, over inveterate opponents? Surely a scheme for a gradual emancipation is practicable. Certainly it is more likely to find favour than that of ye immediate emancipation.

You have, no doubt, found out before to-day that it is the privilege of a man who takes any strong & decided ground, and maintains it strenuously, to be bored almost to death with all kinds of questions, pertinent & impertinent; - and to be obliged to listen to many crude notions of persons only half-informed on the subject in hand. If I am one of the latter class, forgive me, and pass this over without notice.

We had a very pleasant time at Athol. The regret, ~~that~~ you were not present, was universal. Mr. Colman of Deerfield preached ye Sermon - a powerful one - tremendously severe upon the Orthodox, though ~~ain~~ professing to be conceived & written in a most charitable spirit. It was 1 hour & 15 min. long. One of your Sermons, I am sure, would have been generally preferred. Mr. Shaw, I think, is very well situated. A full council was present - all, but yourself & Mr. Goldsbury, who were invited; and, in addition, Mr. Colman & Mr. Wilson, from Brookfield. By the way, Mr. W. and I are to exchange the Sunday after Thanksgiving. - Will you send me back, by Herbert Scarborough, besides a letter, a few copies of the pamphlet above alluded to - "Abolition Principles" pub. by the Providence Soc. - also some few of the best Anti-S. publications you can spare - and I will distribute them. I enclose you two dollars, which I wish to have used in ye cause of Anti-Slavery in such way as you shall think best. - I hope you will not forget to send on to me, for Mrs Southgate, a slip of the Jasmyn. Give my love to your wife & children - and my regards to Mr & Mrs. P. I have heard nothing from Boston, for some time.

Very affectionately, Yours
Saml. May Jr.

Rev. Samuel J. May
Brooklyn.
(Conn.)

Favored by
Master H. Scarborough.

Samuel May Jr
Nov. 19, 1834

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